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Dairy Production

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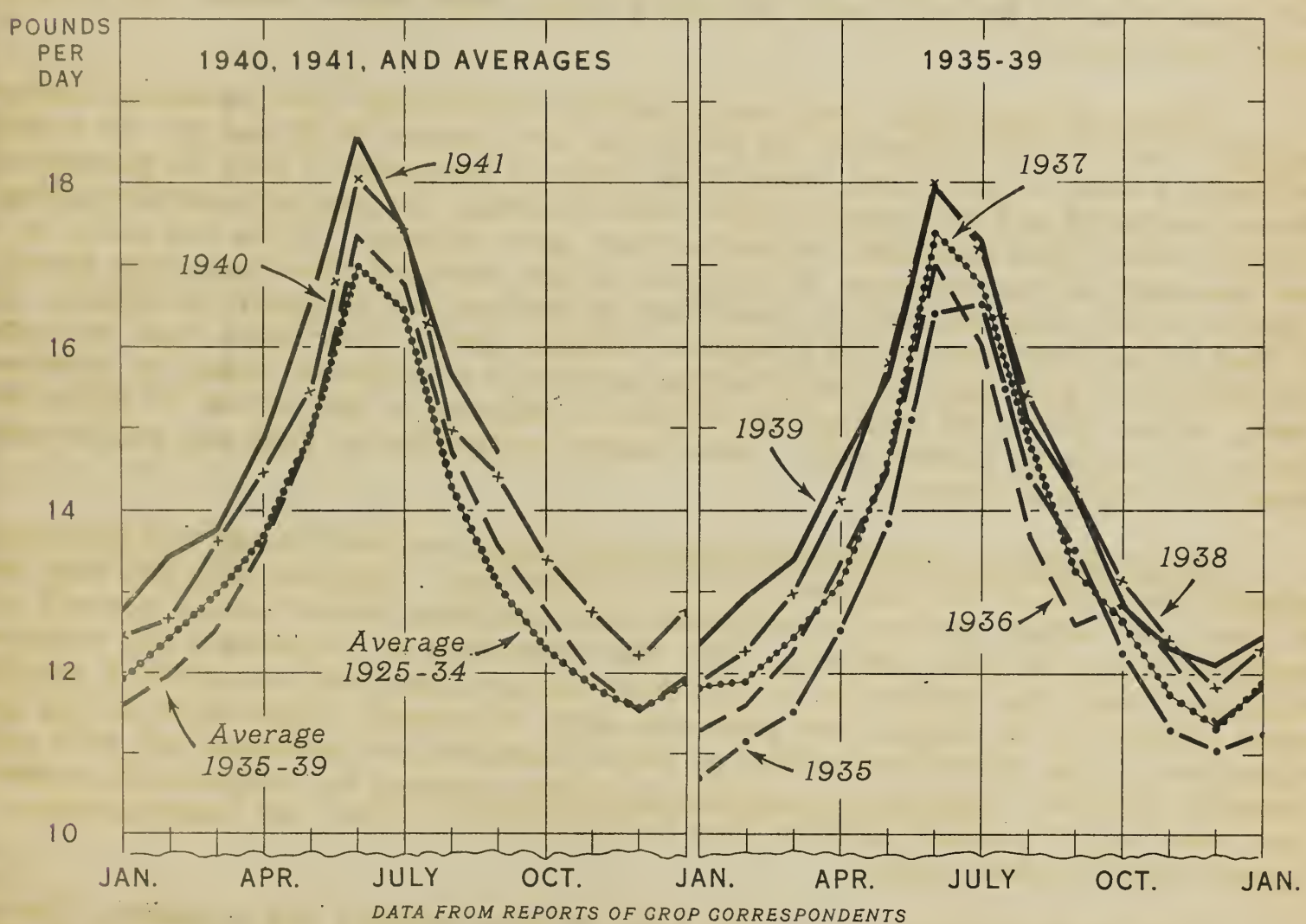
Issued Monthly by
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

No. 17



SEPTEMBER 15, 1941

MILK PRODUCTION PER COW ON 1ST OF MONTH, UNITED STATES



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 496

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

DURING THE FIRST 8 MONTHS OF 1941 MILK PRODUCTION PER COW HAS AVERAGED 3.3 PERCENT ABOVE THE NEAR-RECORD PRODUCTION REPORTED LAST YEAR. THIS HIGH PRODUCTION HAS BEEN DUE PRIMARILY TO LIBERAL FEEDING IN RESPONSE TO THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS AND THE RESULTING FAVORABLE PRICES OF DAIRY PRODUCTS RELATIVE TO THE PRICE OF FEED. IF PRICES CONTINUE FAVORABLE, AS NOW SEEM PROBABLE, PRODUCTION PER COW IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE UNUSUALLY HIGH THROUGH THE WINTER. DETAILS BY REGIONS ARE SHOWN ON PAGE 8.

DAIRY PRODUCTION SUMMARY

Milk production continues high. Production per cow on September 1 was higher than on the same date in previous years in most groups of States but was lower than in September 1940 in the West North Central States where pastures were hurt by drought in August. The trends in the various groups of States are shown on page 8. For the country as a whole the reported production per cow was 2 percent higher than on September 1 last year, the previous high record for the date. With more cows as well as more milk per cow, daily milk production about September 1 was probably nearly 5 percent higher than at that time last year. Milk production during August was nearly 6 percent higher than in the same month last year.

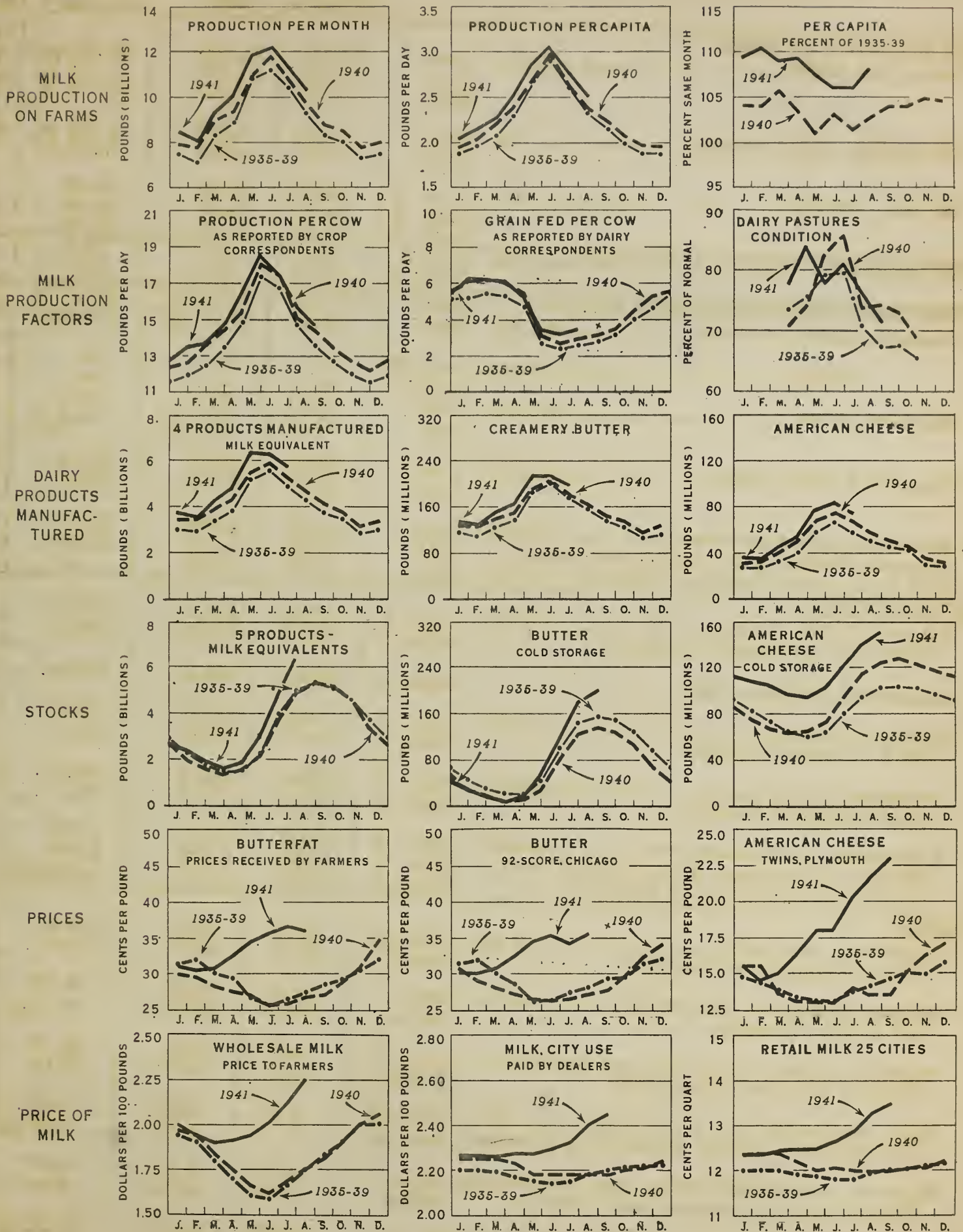
Milk production seems likely to continue heavy this fall and through the winter feeding period. The present high rate of production is due primarily to prices, and if, as is now indicated, a large volume of production is needed this winter, prices should continue favorable for liberal feeding in most areas. Prospects for heavy winter production appear best in the Central States, where pastures have been helped by widespread rains in early September, where the shift towards fall freshening is taking place, and where large grain crops cushion the effect of rising feed prices.

Prices of some feeds that are important to dairymen have recently increased rapidly. Some local quotations on oil meals have jumped \$5.00 per ton in a week. Wholesale prices of principal commercial feeds on September 9 were 18 percent higher than on August 5 and 40 percent higher than in June. At central markets prices of corn and wheat have increased moderately and oats sharply. It is too early to tell just how much of the increase in feed prices has resulted from temporary speculative flurries alone, and how much is justified by current and prospective demand. But if feed prices continue at the present or higher levels they would tend to restrict the feeding of milk cows in considerable areas where dairymen depend on purchased feeds, unless there are substantial further increases in the prices of dairy products, particularly market milk. Some recent quotations on feed and grains are shown in a table on page 6.

The production of manufactured dairy products continues heavy and continues to account for most of the increase in milk production. Compared with the same month of last year August production estimates show creamery butter up 3.7 percent and American cheese up 20.4 percent. With the production of evaporated and condensed milk also high, the production of the four products combined was about 8 percent above production in August last year and about 10 percent higher than in any previous year. The shift from butter to other products has increased and will probably increase further. Stocks of manufactured dairy products on September 1 appear to have been only 1 percent greater than on September 1, 1938, but substantially larger than in other years.

Prices of dairy products have been changing rapidly and unevenly. The price of milk for distribution in cities has been rising, helped by the general increase in retail food prices but handicapped in most areas by an abundance of supplies as compared with a small increase in consumption. In early September the price of this milk and the retail price of bottled milk were each about 12 percent higher than at the same time last year. The price of butter rose earlier and is now about a third higher than in September last year. It is as high in comparison with city milk as in September 1936 and higher than in any other September since 1929. The price of cheese, boosted by export needs, rose with butter and then continued upward and is now at a higher level in comparison with butter than in any month during the last 20 years.

DAIRY PRODUCTION: GRAPHIC SUMMARY FOR THE UNITED STATES



* APPROXIMATION BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO ABOUT 12TH OF CURRENT MONTH

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Dairy Production

September 15, 1941

SUMMARY OF DAIRY STATISTICS FOR THE UNITED STATES

				Average 1935-39	1940	1941	
						Total or Average	Percent of 1940
MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS:							
Total, per month..... mil.lb.	June			11,195	11,805	12,180 <u>a/</u>	103.2
	July			10,443	10,865	11,362 <u>a/</u>	104.6
	Aug.			9,330	9,812	10,385 <u>a/</u>	105.8
Per capita, daily average..... lb.	July			2.604	2.657	2.760 <u>a/</u>	103.9
	Aug.			2.325	2.398	2.521 <u>a/</u>	105.1
Per cow, per day..... lb.	July 1			16.75	17.43	17.40	99.8
	Aug. 1			14.69	14.98	15.68	104.7
	Sept. 1			13.56	14.39	14.68	102.0
DAIRY PASTURES: Condition,% of normal....pct.							
	Aug. 1			70.7	73.5	76.1	103.5
	Sept. 1			67.5	74.1	71.3	96.2
PRODUCTION OF MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS:							
Creamery butter, monthly..... mil.lb.	July			175.9	185.8 <u>b/</u>	196.7 <u>b/</u>	105.9
	Aug.			156.7	165.4 <u>b/</u>	171.5 <u>ad/</u>	103.7
Weekly..... week ending	Aug. 28			--	--	--	100.3
	Sept. 4			--	--	--	101.3
American cheese mil.lb.	July			57.9	66.7	75.0	112.4
	Aug.			51.5	57.8 <u>b/</u>	69.6 <u>ad/</u>	120.4
Evaporated milk, case mil.lb.	June			261.5	295.7	334.2	113.0
	July			212.5	260.6	299.6	115.0
4 products, milk equivalent..... mil.lb.	June			5,602	5,898	6,273	106.4
(Creamery butter x 21, all cheese except	July			4,896	5,334	5,739	107.6
skim x 10, canned cond. & evap.milk x 2.2)	Aug.			4,336	4,726	--	108.2 <u>c/</u>
STOCKS ON HAND:							
Butter in cold storage..... mil.lb.	Aug. 1			143.0	123.6	178.5	144.4
(Including government holdings)	Sept. 1			155.6	134.3	200.5	149.3
Commercial holdings, only.....	Sept. 1			135.1	134.1	198.2	147.8
American cheese..... mil.lb	Aug. 1			95.4	116.8	139.6	119.5
(Cold storage holdings)	Sept. 1			104.1	126.3	151.7	120.1
Evaporated milk, case.....mil.lb.	July 1			283.8	283.6	189.7	65.7
(Manufacturers' stocks)	Aug. 1			280.3	321.3	261.6	81.4
5 products, milk equivalent..... mil.lb.	July 1			3,957	3,747	4,711	125.7
(Butter, all cheese, canned cond & evap.	Aug. 1			4,985	4,960	6,359	128.2
milk plus cream in cold storage)	Sept. 1			5,360	5,318	7,038 <u>cd/</u>	132.3
PRICES:							
Butterfat, per pound..... ct.	July 15			26.4	25.9	36.6	141.3
(Prices received by farmers)	Aug. 15			27.3	26.7	36.0	134.8
Butter, wholesale, per pound..... ct.	Aug.			28.06	27.00	35.52	131.6
(92 score, Chicago)	Sept.			29.27	27.59	36.75 <u>e/</u>	133.2
American cheese, wholesale, per pound...ct.	Aug. 15			14.15	13.50	21.75	161.1
(Twins, Plymouth, Wisconsin)	Sept. 15			14.55	13.50	23.00	170.4
Milk, wholesale, per 100 pounds..... dol.	July 15			1.66	1.69	2.13	126.0
(All purposes, prices received by farmers)	Aug. 15			1.75	1.77	2.25 <u>a/</u>	127.1
Milk for city distribution, per 100 lbs.dol.	Aug.			2.18	2.18	2.40	110.1
(Prices paid by dealers, 3.5% basis)	Sept.			2.20	2.18	2.45	112.4
Milk, retail, delivered, per quart..... ct.	Aug.			11.93	11.98	13.20 <u>b/</u>	110.2
(Average, 25 markets)	Sept.			12.00	11.98	13.49 <u>a/</u>	112.6

a/ Preliminary. b/ Preliminary revision. c/ Forecast or interpolation. d/ Not available when accompanying chart was prepared. e/ Price September 13.

Milk production on farms in the United States, although declining seasonally, continued at an unusually high level. Production in August was estimated at 10.4 billion pounds, an all time record for the month and about 6 percent higher than in August last year. Cumulated production for the first 8 months of 1941 totaled 81.6 billion pounds or about 5 percent above that in the same period of 1940. Per capita milk production in August, estimated at 2.53 pounds per day, was the highest for the date in the period of a dozen years for which records are available. With fall pasture prospects improved by recent rains and grain feeding continuing heavy it appears likely that milk flow will continue heavy during the next few months.

Milk production this summer has been encouraged by a favorable feed situation. Pastures have been among the best of recent years and furnished milk cows in most sections with more than the usual amounts of green feed. Farmers have also been supplementing pasture feed with liberal amounts of grain in response to unusually favorable price relationships between dairy products and feed grains. Likewise, there has been but little hesitancy in supplying green feed or hay to milk cows in the areas where drought has reduced the amount of pasturage available. In addition to maintaining present production at record levels, this liberal feeding of milk cows may also be laying a foundation for unusually heavy production this fall and winter.

MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, UNITED STATES
1935-39 Average, 1940, and 1941

Month	: Average : 1935-39	: Monthly Total : 1940	: 1941	: Pct. : 1941	: Daily Average : 1935-39	: per Capita : 1940	: 1941
		Million pounds			Pounds		
January	7,480	7,952	8,448	106	1.871	1.950	2.058
February	7,124	7,801	8,008	103	1,957	2.044	2.159
March	8,342	9,006	9,331	104	2.084	2.207	2.271
April	8,928	9,444	10,020	106	2.304	2.390	2.519
May	10,719	11,076	11,826	107	2.676	2.712	2.876
June	11,195	11,805	12,180	103	2.886	2.985	3.059
July	10,443	10,865	11,362	105	2.604	2.657	2.760
August	9,330	9,812	10,385	106	2.325	2.398	2.521
Jan.-Aug. Incl.	73,561	77,761	81,560	104.9	2.341	2.419	2.530
September	8,338	8,880	---	---	2.145	2.241	---
October	7,992	8,510	---	---	1.989	2.077	---
November	7,303	7,845	---	---	1.876	1.977	---
December	7,516	8,076	---	---	1.868	1.968	---
Yearly Total	104,710	111,072	---	---	2.216	2.301	---

Milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents was the highest for September 1 in the 17 years of record in a number of the more important dairy States, including New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Idaho, and Oregon. These States, together with Ohio, Minnesota, and Iowa, where production per cow approached previous highs, produce nearly three-fourths of the Nation's manufactured dairy products. In some less important milk producing States, including Arkansas and the Carolinas, production per cow was also record high.

The percentage of milk cows in production has declined earlier than usual. In herds kept by crop correspondents 73.7 percent of the cows were reported milked on September 1, less than the 1937-40 average of 74.6 but more than the September 1 average of 72.1 during the previous 10 years. In the main dairy sections of the North Central States where the percentage of the cows milked was unusually high last winter, the change appears to be due chiefly to a further shift towards fall freshening but it is possible that in States where many of the cows are of dual purpose breeding part of the change may result from a slight shift in the proportion of the cows classed as milk cows. In the South and to some extent elsewhere, delayed weaning of the calves may also be a factor.

The condition of dairy pastures on September 1 averaged 71 percent of normal, somewhat lower than on the same date last year but the fourth best for September 1 in a dozen years. In the West and South pastures were unusually good but elsewhere they were spotted and mostly only fair, as shown by the table on page 7. Late August and early September rains have materially improved prospects for fall grazing. In much of the North Central part of the country the dry hot weather in August caused sharp deterioration of pastures. September 1 condition figures in Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, and Nebraska were all down 10 points or more from a month earlier.

In the coastal sections of New England grazing conditions continued poor through August. In northern New York pastures on September 1 were still short in spite of some improvement resulting from late August rains, and were furnishing much less feed than usual. In the Southeast, pastures continued in above average condition on September 1 although a considerable decline from August 1 was apparent in Seaboard States from Delaware through North Carolina.

In all South Central States except Kentucky grazing conditions were well maintained during August, and on September 1 pasture condition was above the 1930-39 average for the date. In Oklahoma and Texas pastures were the best for the date in more than a dozen years, and more than 30 points higher than the 1930-39 average which includes several years of severe drought. In the Western States pastures averaged the best in more than a dozen years and recent rains in the northern Pacific Coast States have improved prospects.

The need for largely increased supplies of dairy products was announced last April. Production, which was then at a high level, has been continued substantially higher than in any previous year. From May 1 through August the production of American cheese has exceeded the record production in the same months of last year by over 38,000,000 pounds or 14.5 percent. Production of evaporated milk will probably show an increase of 21 percent. Creamery butter production in this period shows an increase over last year of almost 50 million pounds or 6.6 percent and as this additional butter is still on hand in cold storage it will permit further diversion of milk to cheese and evaporated milk production during the remainder of the year when the cheese factories and condenseries are able to handle the additional milk.

RELATIVE PRICES OF GRAINS AND FEEDS PER 100 LBS. ABOUT THE 15th OF MONTH

	: June	: July	: Aug.	: Sept.
	: Dol.	: Dol.	: Dol.	: Dol.
	: per cwt	: per cwt	: per cwt	: per cwt
Corn: Prices received by farmers	: 1.22	: 1.24	: 1.25	: --
Corn #3 Yellow, Chicago	: 1.32	: 1.32	: 1.33	: 1.34
Corn gluten feed, Chicago, wholesale	: .90	: 1.17	: 1.20	: 1.40
Oats; Prices received by farmers	: 1.04	: 1.02	: 1.02	: --
Oats, #3 white Chicago	: 1.14	: 1.12	: 1.19	: 1.46
Soybean meal, Chicago, wholesale	: 1.18	: 1.74	: 1.84	: 2.21(Oct.del)
Cottonseed meal, 41% Memphis, wholesale	: 1.22	: 1.54	: 1.71	: 2.16(Sept.9)

DAIRY PRODUCTION

Milk Produced per Milk Cow in
Herds kept by Reporters 1/

Condition of Dairy Pastures 2/

	Sept. 1 :Av. 1930-39:	Sept. 1 1940	Sept. 1 1941	Sept. 1 :Av. 1930-39:	Sept. 1 1940	Sept. 1 1941
	Pounds			Percent		
Me.	14.3	16.2	16.3	74.6	72	65
N. H.	14.8	14.5	16.8	76.3	75	58
Vt.	13.2	14.4	15.2	78.4	75	75
Mass.	17.5	18.4	17.9	72.7	67	58
R. I.	3/	3/	3/	71.9	79	79
Conn.	17.6	19.6	19.8	72.4	84	84
N. Y.	16.0	17.2	17.5	65.4	72	61
N. J.	19.0	19.0	19.9	68.6	72	78
Pa.	16.5	16.9	17.6	67.6	74	72
N. Atl.	16.07	17.18	17.63	68.8	73.2	67.0
Ohio	15.6	15.7	16.8	65.7	62	72
Ind.	14.9	15.3	15.6	63.3	51	60
Ill.	14.2	15.8	16.6	61.0	64	70
Mich.	16.3	13.1	13.4	55.4	86	57
Wis.	15.0	16.5	17.2	54.2	87	60
E.N.Cent.	15.10	16.33	17.00	58.6	74.5	63.2
Minn.	12.9	14.2	14.3	54.2	76	70
Iowa	13.2	15.6	14.7	62.0	92	60
Mo.	10.4	12.6	12.7	54.5	81	60
N. Dak.	12.5	14.5	13.0	43.7	74	82
S. Dak.	10.8	12.5	11.6	39.7	60	56
Nebr.	12.8	14.0	14.1	51.4	44	65
Kans.	12.0	12.7	13.8	49.2	64	84
W.N.Cent.	12.18	13.81	13.56	53.1	74.1	67.6
Del.	3/	3/	3/	72.2	71	79
Md.	15.1	16.4	16.0	67.2	76	72
Va.	12.8	14.2	14.0	76.5	97	79
W. Va.	13.4	13.4	13.3	74.3	79	82
N. C.	12.4	13.2	14.0	80.4	85	83
S. C.	10.3	11.2	11.8	70.2	72	78
Ga.	8.9	9.5	9.4	73.2	78	82
Fla.	3/	3/	3/	81.9	86	85
S. Atl.	11.63	12.64	12.74	74.8	82.8	80.0
Ky.	12.9	13.3	13.7	72.9	60	73
Tenn.	11.4	12.1	12.7	70.5	78	79
Ala.	8.4	9.5	9.5	75.1	76	86
Miss.	7.6	7.7	7.9	71.1	81	83
Ark.	8.5	9.7	10.4	57.1	83	79
La.	3/	3/	3/	73.8	83	84
Okla.	9.9	11.3	11.5	47.6	71	84
Tex.	9.1	9.7	9.5	56.8	71	91
S. Cent.	9.60	10.41	10.70	63.0	73.1	83.0
Mont.	14.0	15.2	16.3	54.2	74	83
Idaho	17.3	18.8	20.6	72.0	72	96
Wyo.	13.2	14.1	15.5	66.4	67	95
Colo.	13.4	15.1	15.4	59.4	56	94
N. Mex.	3/	3/	3/	65.3	71	97
Ariz.	3/	3/	3/	81.0	71	92
Utah	3/	3/	3/	67.3	53	90
Nev.	3/	3/	3/	75.5	89	98
Wash.	17.7	17.9	18.4	63.5	63	79
Oreg.	15.5	16.8	17.2	67.4	62	84
Calif.	18.0	20.0	19.9	70.7	82	88
West.	15.51	16.98	17.94	65.9	70.5	87.8
U. S.	13.13	14.39	14.68	61.5	71.1	71.3

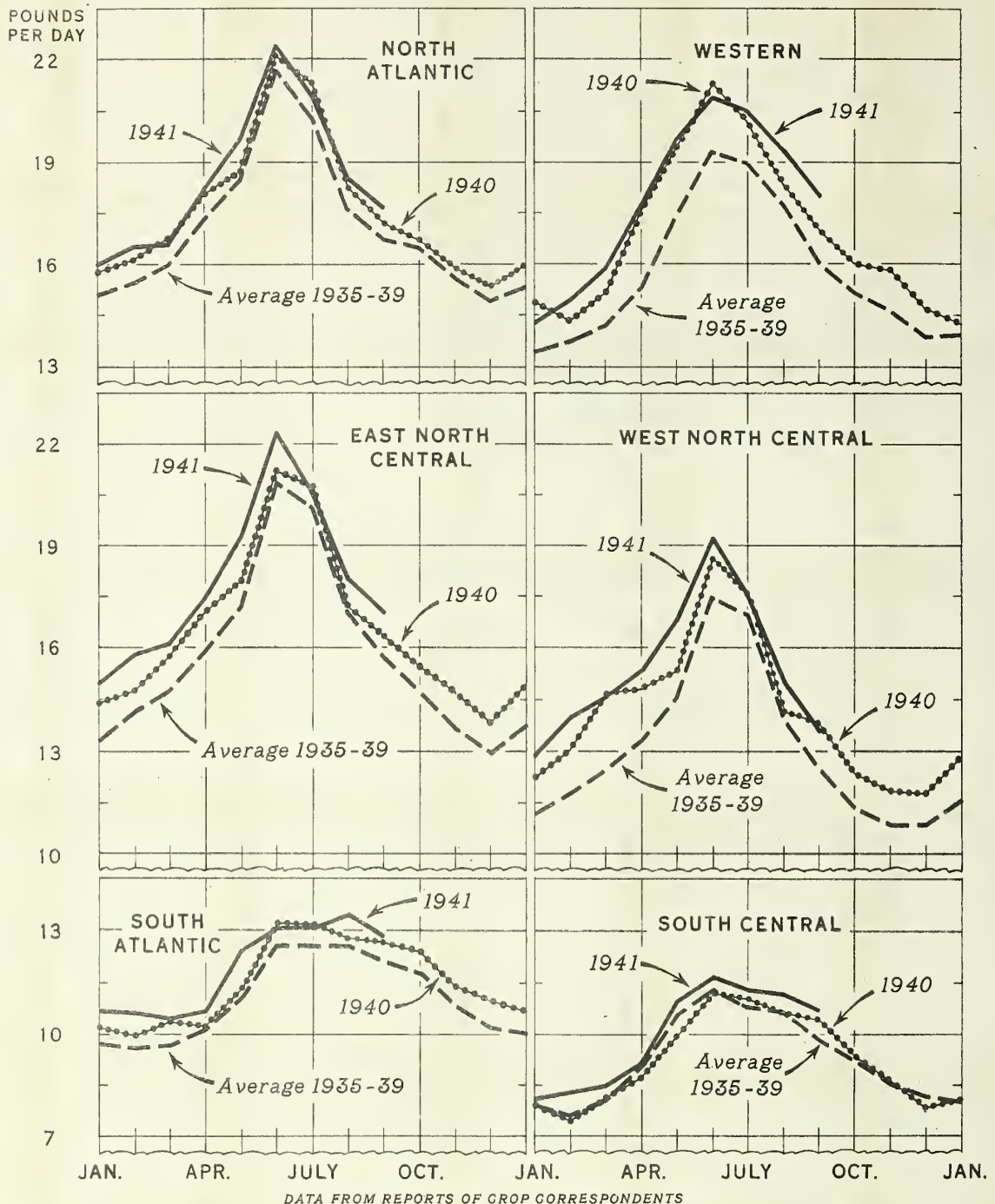
1/ Averages represent the reported daily milk production of herds kept by reporters divided by the total number of milk cows (in milk or dry) in these herds. Figures for New England States are based on combined returns from crop and special dairy reporters and are weighted by counties. Figures for other States, regions, and U. S. are based on returns from crop reporters only.

2/ State averages are based on reports by crop correspondents. For regional and U. S. averages the States are combined in proportion to the importance of pastures to dairy production on September 1.

3/ State averages omitted because of instability, but reports are included in arriving at regional averages.

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MILK PRODUCTION PER COW ON 1ST OF MONTH, BY REGIONS,
UNITED STATES, AVERAGE 1935-39, AND 1940-41



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 497 AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

REPORTS FROM CORRESPONDENTS SHOW THAT FARMERS IN ALL GROUPS OF STATES HAVE BEEN FEEDING MILK COWS LIBERALLY AND HAVE BEEN OBTAINING MORE THAN THE USUAL QUANTITY OF MILK PER COW. LOCAL CONDITIONS LARGELY EXPLAIN THE DIVERSE TRENDS. NORTH ATLANTIC: JANUARY MILD; LATE FEBRUARY COLD. SPRING EARLY BUT PASTURES SOON HURT BY DROUGHT. PRICE OF MILK FOR CITY DISTRIBUTION, FORMERLY RELATIVELY HIGH, HAS RECENTLY RISEN LESS THAN OTHER DAIRY PRODUCTS. WEST: WINTER MILD. PASTURES EXCELLENT. FEED CROPS GOOD. DAIRYING EXPANDING. EAST AND WEST NORTH CENTRAL: PASTURES MOSTLY GOOD TILL MID-JUNE; HURT BY DROUGHT IN AUGUST, BUT SHOULD IMPROVE. GRAIN PLENTIFUL, PRICES OF DAIRY PRODUCTS ENCOURAGING, AND HEAVY PRODUCTION EXPECTED. FALL FRESHENING INCREASING. SOUTH ATLANTIC AND SOUTH CENTRAL: MARCH COLD. PASTURES HURT BY DRY WEATHER IN MAY AND JUNE EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI; IMPROVED IN JULY. OUTLETS FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS MUCH IMPROVED BUT COMPETITION FROM BEEF CATTLE INCREASING.